

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 8-9, 17-21 and 23-24 remain in this application. Claims 7, 10-16 and 22 have been canceled without prejudice.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cobb (US Patent No. 6,199,102) in view of Knowles et al. (US Patent No. 5,905,863). Claims 17, 18-21 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Cobb, and claims 11-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Geiger et al. (US Patent No. 6,073,142). In addition, claims 3, 5, 7, 9, 10, 22 and 24 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base and intervening claims.

Independent claim 1 has been rewritten to include the limitations of claim 7. Accordingly, in view of the indication of allowable subject matter of claim 7, it is believed that claim 1 and the claims dependent therefrom are now in condition for allowance.

Independent claim 8 has been rewritten to include the limitations of claim 10. Accordingly, in view of the indication of allowable subject matter of claim 10, it is believed that claim 8 and the claims dependent therefrom are now in condition for allowance.

Independent claim 17 has been rewritten to include the limitations of claim 22. Accordingly, in view of the indication of allowable subject matter of claim 22, it is believed that claim 17 and the claims dependent therefrom are now in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-6, 8-9, 17-21 and 23-24 of the present application are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, applicant requests reconsideration of the application and allowance of all claims.

If the present amendment raises any questions or the Examiner believes that an interview would facilitate prosecution of the present application, he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

STEVENS & SHOWALTER, L.L.P.

By Michael D. Folkerts
Michael D. Folkerts
Registration No. 33,348

7019 Corporate Way
Dayton, OH 45459-4238
Telephone: (937) 438-6848
Facsimile: (937) 438-2124
E-mail: mfolkerts@speakeasy.net